

NEPA HOTSHEET

December 2010

Wyoming BLM Land Use Planning & Projects

Resource Management Plans

1. **Bighorn Basin Resource Management Plan (RMP) Revision Project/ Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).** The planning area includes lands within the BLM Cody and Worland Field Offices' administrative boundaries, in all of Big Horn, Park and Washakie counties, and most of Hot Springs County in north-central Wyoming. The planning area includes all lands, regardless of jurisdiction, totaling 5.6 million acres; however, the BLM will only make decisions on lands that fall under the BLM's jurisdiction. Lands within the planning area under the BLM's jurisdiction make up the decision area. The decision area consists of BLM- administered surface, totaling 3.2 million acres, and the federal mineral estate, totaling 4.2 million acres. The revised RMPs will replace the Washakie and Grass Creek RMPs in Worland, Wyoming, and the Cody RMP in Cody, Wyoming. Main issues include energy and mineral development, rangeland health, vegetation and habitat management, wild horse and burro management, cultural resources management, lands and realty management and management of recreational uses of the BLM- administered surface. **NEPA Status: DEIS** in preparation and currently undergoing Washington Office Review. Publication of the **Notice of Availability (NOA)** will likely occur in early to mid January, which will begin a 90 day public comment period. Several public meetings will be held during the comment period throughout the basin. Notification of these meetings will occur through press releases beginning 15 days prior to the first meeting. **Contact: Caleb Hiner, RMP Project Lead, Wind River/ Bighorn Basin District Office (307-347-5171).**
Project website: www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/rmps/bighorn.html
2. **Rock Springs RMP Revision/ EIS.** The Rock Springs Field Office intends to revise the Green River RMP (GR RMP) that was completed in 1997. The revision will be renamed the Rock Springs RMP (RS RMP). The RS RMP covers 3.6 million acres of public land surface ownership and 3.5 million acres of BLM- administered federal mineral estate, located in southwestern Wyoming. The decision area does not include private lands, state lands, tribal trust lands, or other federal lands or subsurface mineral estates not administered by the BLM. Preliminary planning issues for the planning area have been identified by BLM personnel and include a spectrum of issues and management concerns. **NEPA Status:** Revision of the RMP was initiated by *Federal Register* publication of a **NOI** October 5, 2010, which has been forwarded to the Wyoming State Office for final review and signature. Public scoping will begin upon publication of the **NOI**. **Contact: Vera-Lynn Harrison, RMP Project Manager, Rock Springs Field Office (307-352-0259).**
Project website: www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/rmps/RockSprings.html
(NOTE: This site will be activated when the **NOI** is published).
3. **Buffalo RMP Revision/ EIS.** The Buffalo RMP was completed in 1985. The RMP covers approximately 780,000 acres of BLM- administered surface and approximately 4.8 million acres of BLM- administered federal mineral estate located in Campbell, Johnson, and Sheridan counties in northeast Wyoming. Revision will address main issues, including energy and mineral development, vegetation and wildlife habitat management, cultural resources management, and lands and realty management. **NEPA Status:** Revision of the RMP was initiated by *Federal Register* publication of a **NOI** on November 14, 2008. Public scoping

meetings were held during the week of December 1-5, 2008. **DEIS** is in preparation.

Contact: Thomas Bills, IDT Leader, Buffalo Field Office (307-684-1133).

Project website: <http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/rmps/buffalo.html>

4. **Lander RMP Revision/ EIS.** The Lander RMP was completed in 1987. The RMP covers approximately 2.5 million acres of BLM- administered surface and approximately 2.7 million acres of BLM- administered federal mineral estate located in Fremont, Natrona, Sweetwater, Carbon, and Hot Springs counties in west/ central Wyoming. Main issues requiring revision include energy and mineral development, rangeland health, vegetation and habitat management, wild horse and burro management, cultural resources management, management of Congressionally designated trails, Greater Sage Grouse (70% of the field office is in core area), and management of the recreational uses of the BLM administered surface. **NEPA Status:** Revision of the RMP was initiated by *Federal Register* publication of a **NOI** on February 13, 2007. Public scoping meetings were held during the week of March 19-23, 2007. **DEIS** was distributed for internal BLM and Cooperating Agency comments on November 10, 2010. **Contact:** Kristin Yannone, IDT Leader, Lander Field Office (307-332-8400).
Project website: www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/rmps/lander.html
5. **Sage Grouse RMP Amendments/ EIS.** This BLM proposed project will amend six RMPs across the state (Newcastle, Casper, Rawlins, Rock Springs, Kemmerer, and Pinedale) to incorporate new protection and conservation measures on priority Sage Grouse habitat in attempt to prevent the bird from being listed as a T&E species. The planning area includes nearly 15 million acres within the six RMPs. The proposed action would impose policy contained in WY IM's 2010-012 and -013. Three planning workshops with Cooperating Agencies have been held, and a fourth is scheduled for December. Twenty two Cooperating Agencies have been signed into this effort through a **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)**. This is the first BLM **EIS** that has allowed the public to observe the Cooperating Agency meetings. Booz, Allen, Hamilton has been contracted to help with this effort. **NEPA Status:** The effort to prepare the RMP Amendments and associated **EISs** was officially initiated by publishing of a **NOI** through the *Federal Register* on May 28, 2010. The scoping period ended on August 30, 2010. The planning team is currently in alternative formulation. The latest alternative formulation workshop was held on November 30 – December 2, in Cheyenne. **DEIS** is scheduled to be released in June 2011. **Contact:** Lisa Solberg, Team Leader, Pinedale Field Office (307-367-5340).
Project website: www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/amendments/sage-grouse.html

Oil and Gas Development Projects

1. **Moxa Arch Area Infill Gas Development Project/ EIS.** The Kemmerer Field Office received a proposal submitted by the operators in the Moxa Arch gas field to infill drill additional natural gas wells that would facilitate gas extraction, maximize the economic recovery of the resource, and extend the production life of the field. The Moxa Arch Area (MAA) is located in southwestern Wyoming, and is comprised of 476,300 acres of mixed federal, state, and private lands in Sweetwater, Unita, and Lincoln counties. The operators estimate that approximately 2,500 new gas wells would be drilled within the project area over 20 years. **NEPA Status:** The project was officially started by publishing a **NOI** in the *Federal Register* on October 7, 2005. The **DEIS** was released for public review on October 12, 2007. The Public Comment Period was extended through January 10, 2008. However, questions were raised by the stakeholder group as to the accuracy and timeliness of the EI used in the AQ dispersion modeling. AQ modeling is being repeated. **Contact:** Michele

Easley, AFM Resources, Kemmerer Field Office (307-828-4503).

Project website: www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/kfdocs/moxa_arch.html

2. **LaBarge Platform Exploration and Development Project/ EIS.** Pinedale and Rock Springs Field Offices received a proposal in December 2009 for the La Barge Platform Project from the following four energy development companies: EOG Resources, Exxon Mobil, Chevron, and Wexpro. The companies propose to drill natural gas and oil wells from new well pads over the course of 10 years in the Upper Green River Basin, in Sublette and Lincoln counties in western Wyoming. This **EIS** addresses the proposal to drill, complete, produce, and eventually reclaim up to 838 oil and gas (primarily natural gas) wells on an estimated 463 new well pads (vertical and horizontal) over a 40 year project life span. The project area consists of 218,000 acres of federal, state, and private lands. The area is one of the oldest oil and gas fields in the region, dating back roughly 100 years. **NEPA Status: NOI** published in the *Federal Register* on August 3, 2009. **DEIS** in preparation, alternatives in early stages of development. An AQ modeling protocol is being drafted by the contractor. As of November 2010, strong efforts are being made to obtain and use CAMx results generated by AQ modeling from the CD- C, Hiawatha and Moxa Arch EIS's. **Contact: Lauren McKeever, Project Lead, Pinedale Field Office (307-367-5352).**
Project website: www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/pfdocs/labarge_platform.html
3. **Continental Divide- Creston Natural Gas Project/ EIS.** The BLM has combined two proposals for **EIS** analysis: Creston Blue Gap II and Continental Divide into a new project entitled, "Continental Divide- Creston Natural Gas Project (CD-C)". The combined proposal includes 8,950 natural gas wells, including 100 to 500 coal bed natural gas wells. Proponents for this action are Devon Energy and nearly 60 other lease holders. The project area encompasses about 1.1 million acres of mixed federal, state, and private lands within the boundaries of the Rawlins Field Office. Wells would be developed using a combination of both vertical and directional drilling techniques. The new project area overlies natural gas fields previously analyzed for field development. A 15 year construction period with a 30- 40 year life of project development and operational period is proposed. The new project area is located approximately 25 air miles west of the city of Rawlins, within Carbon and Sweetwater counties in southern Wyoming. **NEPA Status: NOI** for CD-C was published in the *Federal Register* on March 3, 2006. Scoping notice published in April 2006. Air quality model results along with associated reports are expected in April 2011. A draft EIS, minus AQ information, is currently under administrative review in the Rawlins Field Office, until the AQ information can be added. **Contact: Eldon Allison, IDT Leader, Rawlins Field Office (307-328-4267).**
Project website: www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/rfdocs/cd_creston.html
4. **Hiawatha Field Project/ EIS.** Questar Exploration & Production Company along with Wexpro Company proposes to drill exploratory and development wells within existing natural gas fields in southern Sweetwater County, Wyoming and northern Moffat County, Colorado. The project area of approximately 157,335 acres is located about 55 miles south of Rock Springs, Wyoming. The proponents propose to drill up to 2,200 new conventional natural gas wells mainly within the boundaries of the existing Hiawatha, Canyon Creek, and Trail units of southwest Wyoming and northwest Colorado. About 66% of the proposed wells would be located in Wyoming, with the remainder in Colorado. **NEPA Status: NOI** was published in the *Federal Register* on September 6, 2006. **DEIS** was made available for administrative and cooperating agencies' review in the fall of 2007. Questions were raised as to the accuracy of timeliness of the EI used in the AQ dispersion modeling, and Environ is in the process of refining the emissions inventory. Initial baseline modeling will begin by

November 2010. A cooperators meeting was held on November 9, 2010 to review the integration of the cooperator comments, status of the air quality modeling and to hear a presentation from the Nature Conservancy on their Development by Design study for the Hiawatha Field Project. Pending air quality results, a new schedule for the completion of the EIS will be released. Contact: **James Speck, IDT Leader, Rock Springs Field Office (307-352-0358).**

Project website: www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/rsfodocs/hiawatha.html

5. **Desolation Road Exploratory Gas Wells Project/ Environmental Analysis (EA).** Samson Investment Company proposes to develop the Desolation Road Gas Exploratory Project in Sweetwater County, Wyoming. Samson has submitted an application to construct two exploratory natural gas wells. The south well (DRU #31-28) would be constructed on BLM-administered public land to drill into the federal mineral estate. The north well (DRU #34-21) would be constructed on privately owned surface land to drill into privately owned mineral estate. The purpose of both wells would be to test the feasibility of oil and gas development. The proposed location of the south well (DRU #31-28) and portions of the access route for both proposed wells are within the Monument Valley Management Area. Both locations and the access route are outside of the Adobe Town Wilderness Study area (WSA), with the southern well located approximately 1.5 miles north of the Adobe Town WSA boundary. **NEPA Status:** Modified **DR** with a modified **FONSI** and amended **EA** were signed on October 19, 2010 (preliminary **EA** was remanded to Rock Springs Field Office for issues related to wilderness characteristics of the project area). An Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) appeal is pending for this decision. **Project Contact: Kimberlee Foster, Project NEPA Coordinator, Rock Spring Field Office (307-352-0273).**
Project website: www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/rsfodocs/DesolationRoadGas.html
6. **Fortification Creek Planning Area Amendment/ EA to the Buffalo RMP.** The Buffalo Field Office has announced its intentions to initiate the NEPA process to amend the Buffalo RMP (1985, amended 2003) in order to develop additional management direction and objectives for the Fortification Creek planning area, located east of Buffalo, Wyoming. Land use decisions currently in place need to be evaluated to determine whether those decisions are still relevant. BLM continues to receive requests for oil and gas exploration and development in the 100,655 acre Fortification Creek planning area, which is comprised of a mix of federal, state, and private surface ownership. There has been interest expressed by the public for other uses. **NEPA Status:** **NOI** published in the *Federal Register* August 20, 2007. **NOA of EA**, which started a 60- day public comment period, was published in the *Federal Register* September 17, 2010. Public Comment period closed November 19, 2010. Comments are currently being analyzed and responded to. The plan will be modified based upon the comments and the proposed final plan will be prepared. A **Decision Record (DR)** is anticipated in April 2011. **Contact: Tom Bills, IDT Leader, Buffalo Field Office (307-684-1133).**
Project website: www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/bfodocs/fortification_creek.html
7. **Normally- Pressured Lance Natural Gas Development Project/ EIS.** The Normally- Pressured Lance (NPL) "Region" is an area encompassing 141,080 acres of land located immediately south and west of the existing Jonah Gas Field within the BLM Pinedale and Rock Springs Field Offices, High Desert District, in Sublette County, Wyoming, about 68 miles northwest of Rock Springs, Wyoming. About 93% of the NPL Region is federal property. EnCana Oil & Gas (USA) Inc. (EnCana) currently owns leasehold interests on more than 70% of this area. EnCana is proposing the NPL project to include as many as 3,500 wells (depth range from 6,500 to 13,500 feet) based on a maximum of 64 wells per section of

land, drilled over 10 years to produce natural gas from the Lance Pool. To minimize surface disturbance, wells would be directionally drilled from up to four, 18 acre multi-well pad locations per section of land. EnCana would use no more than 10 natural gas drilling rigs on average to develop its interest. EnCana also proposes to construct associated access roads, pipelines, compressor stations, and other facilities. On November 5, 2010, BLM selected ICF International as the third party **EIS** contractor. **NEPA Status:** The **NOI** has not yet been published in the *Federal Register* and no scoping has been conducted. As of October 2010, the BLM has been in the process of reviewing an **MOU** with EnCana regarding the preparation of the **EIS**. The **MOU** should be executed by both parties by November 2010. **Project Contact: Jim Lucas, IDT Leader, Pinedale Field Office (307-367-5361).**
Project website: www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/rsfdocs/encana_npl.html

8. **Gun Barrel, Madden Deep, & Iron Horse Units (GMI) Natural Gas Development Project/ EIS.** Encana Oil & Gas (USA) Inc. (Gun Barrel), Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company, LP (Madden), and Noble Energy, Inc. (Iron Horse) have proposed to develop the above three federal oil and gas units and to drill approximately 1,470 additional wells within a 10- 12 year period. The anticipated life of the proposed project is approximately 40 years. The project area is located in central Wyoming near the town of Lysite. The majority of the project is located within the Lander Field Office, with a small segment located within the Casper Field Office. The proposed project encompasses approximately 146,000 acres, the majority of which is BLM- administered lands. **NEPA Status:** **NOI** to prepare **EIS** was published in the *Federal Register* June 5, 2008. Scoping meetings were held in Casper and Lander in June 2008. The proponents are currently revising the Plan of Development (POD) and alternatives are being developed with the Cooperating Agencies. **DEIS** is in preparation. No AQ dispersion modeling has been conducted as of November 2010. A draft AQ modeling protocol was sent to the AQ stakeholder group in January 2009; this draft will need to be updated due to new information. **Contact: Chris Krassin, IDT Leader, Lander Field Office (307-332-8452).**
Project website: www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/lfdocs/gmi.html
9. **Beaver Creek Natural Gas Development Project/ EIS.** Devon Energy Production Co. has submitted a proposal to drill up to 228 natural gas wells, of which approximately 208 would produce coal bed natural gas (CBNG) and 20 would produce conventional natural gas. Devon proposes to drill the CBNG wells at a density of one well per every 40 acres. The project area is approximately 16,515 acres and is located about nine miles southeast of Riverton, Wyoming, in Fremont County, within the Lander Field Office. Approximately 82% of the project area is public lands and federal mineral estate administered by the BLM. Drilling would occur during a 5 - 10 year period over the course of a 20 - 40 year project life. Existing development in the Beaver Creek unit includes 133 producing conventional natural gas and oil wells. **NEPA Status:** **NOI** published in the *Federal Register* on July 29, 2008. No AQ dispersion modeling has been conducted as of November 2010. A draft AQ modeling protocol was sent to the AQ stakeholder group in January of 2009; this draft needs to be updated given what has been learned over the past 1 ½ years on the work done on for CD- C, Hiawatha, and Moxa Arch. **Contact: Curtis Bryan, NRS/IDT Lead, Lander Field Office (307-332-8415).**
Project website: www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/lfdocs/beavercreek_cbng.html

Wind Energy Projects

1. **Sierra Madre/ Chokecherry Wind Farm Project/ EIS.** Power Company of Wyoming has submitted to the BLM an application requesting right of way (ROW) across public lands to

site approximately 1000 2-3 megawatt (MW) wind turbines, access roads, transmission lines and associated infrastructure. The project area is located south of Rawlins, Wyoming within the checkerboard land pattern. The project is separated into two areas, the Chokecherry and the Sierra Madre and encompasses approximately 215,000 acres of which 100,000 acres are public lands. **NEPA Status:** NOI to prepare an EIS was published in the *Federal Register* July 25, 2008. Four public scoping meetings were held in Wyoming August 16- 19, 2008. DEIS is being reviewed by the BLM and cooperating agencies. **Contact: Pamela Murdock, IDT Leader, Rawlins Field Office (307-328-4215).**
Project website: www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/rfodocs/Chokecherry.html

2. **White Mountain Wind Farm/ EA.** Teton Wind, LLC, filed an application for a wind energy project known as the White Mountain Wind Energy Project. The project area comprises of approximately 13,145 acres of private, state, and public lands and is located on top of White Mountain, located west- northwest of the city of Rock Springs, Wyoming (Townships 19 and 20, North, Ranges 105 and 106 West, 6th P.M.). The 3 - 5 year phased development could result in a maximum build out of a 350 MW electrical generating facility consisting of up to 240, 1.5 MW turbines. Associated facilities include access roads, staging areas, operation/ maintenance building, underground collection system, and a substation to connect power generated to an existing 230 kV power line. **NEPA Status:** Preliminary EA released for public comment in February 2010. Comments were received in March 2010. EA pending final comments and resolution of Section 106 issues. Note: Section 106 Programmatic Agreement will be completed by end of 2010. The EA comments received are finalized at this point and an initial drafting of the DR and FONSI are being completed by NEPA contractor, TRC, while work continues on PA and APP request. **Contact: Casey Reeves, IDT Leader, Rock Springs Field Office (307-352-0211).**
Project website: www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/rsfodocs/whitemtnwind.html
3. **Black Mountain Wind Energy Facility Project/ EA.** Black Mountain Wind Park, LLC, (all interests held by "Wasatch Wind Intermountain, LLC") proposes to construct and operate a 105 megawatt (MW) wind energy facility. As part of this Type III Wind Energy Facility Right-of-Way proposal, the applicant requests a ROW permit to construct 50, 2 to 3 MW wind turbines within a 3,993 acre (6.25 square mile) project area. The project area consists of 3,558 acres of BLM- administered land (89%), 395 acres of lands under private ownership (10%), and 40 acres of state managed public land (1%). The project is located within the Lander and Casper Field Offices of the Wind River/ Big Horn Basin and High Plains District. Besides the turbines, the proposed project would require an approximately 14.6 mile long, 3 phase transmission line (to be applied for through a separate ROW application, but analyzed in the NEPA document as part of the proposed project). The proposed project also includes the construction of an operations and maintenance building, a substation, 3.3 miles of new roads, the upgrade of 13.3 miles of existing roads, and installation of 9.3 miles of underground collector electrical cable. The project area is located within Natrona County on lands administered by BLM Casper and Lander Field Offices and on private land owned by CircleBar Ranch. **NEPA Status:** The BLM is preparing an EA for the proposed project. The applicant has placed the project on hold pending interconnect developments and agreements. Entities with rights-of-way grants and land owners associated within the proposed project area have been notified. Tribal consultation began in late October. The applicant has not begun wildlife studies. **Contact: Terese Engles, Project Manager, Renewable Energy, Rawlins Field Office, (307-328-4252).**
4. **Pathfinder Testing and Monitoring/ anticipated EA.** Pathfinder Renewable Wind Energy LLC requests a Type II Wind Testing and Monitoring ROW grant to place multiple met

towers on federal lands and to use federal lands to access met towers on fee and state lands. Total federal land included in Pathfinder's proposed project area is in excess of 100,000 acres. **NEPA Status:** Pathfinder's application is not yet complete, and therefore the NEPA process has not yet begun. Preparation of an **EA** is anticipated, based on expected proximity of proposed met towers to Sage Grouse leks and core areas. **Contact: Terese Engles, Project Manager, Renewable Energy, Rawlins Field Office (307-328-4252).**

5. **Miller Mountain Wind Farm/ anticipated EIS.** Evergreen Wind Power Partners LLC proposes to construct a 300 MW wind energy facility. The proponent proposes to construct 200 turbines on 5088 acres of BLM- administered land within the Rock Springs Field Office in Sweetwater County, located in southwest Wyoming. Initial planning and application were completed prior to Sage Grouse core areas being designated. At the present time the entire project is wholly within core areas and had been put on hold by the applicant. **NEPA Status:** If the project area moves forward in core Sage Grouse areas, an **EIS** will need to be prepared. **Contact: Casey Reeves, (307-352-0211).**
6. **Quaking Aspen Mountain Wind Farm/ EA.** Evergreen Wind Power Partners LLC proposes to construct a 160 MW wind energy facility. The proponent proposes to construct 79 turbines upon 5,157 acres of BLM- administered land within the Rock Springs Field Office, in Sweetwater County, in southwest Wyoming. Initial notice has been sent to AFO's to assign members to ID team for resource review in the project area. Pre-application meeting was held on September 28, 2010. This project has gone through recent changes and has been downsized to accommodate current revisions by the state of Wyoming which designated core Sage Grouse area in the original project footprint. Forty-one wind turbines have been removed from the original application. Cost recovery is being drafted for this project and NEPA should be initiated once cost recovery is accepted by the proponent and the Rock Springs Field Office. **NEPA Status:** Pending acceptance of cost recovery by the proponent and the Rock Springs Field Office, an **EA** tiered off of the programmatic wind **EIS** will be drafted. **Contact: Casey Reeves (307-352-0211).**
7. **White Mountain Wind Project/ EA.** Evergreen Wind Power Partners LLC proposes to construct a 200 MW wind energy facility. Assembly of 63 turbines has been suggested by the proponent on 5,000 acres of BLM- administered land within the Rock Springs Field Office, in Sweetwater County, in southwestern Wyoming. Approximately 15 miles of new turbine string corridor (16- 20 foot wide permanent roads plus turbine foundations) would be constructed. Approximately 30 miles of new roads would be required. Project is currently on hold. The applicant would like to continue collecting data for this project. **NEPA Status:** Initial internal interdisciplinary resource review required after cost recovery. Anticipate **EIS** if construction is proposed in core Sage Grouse areas. **Contact: Casey Reeves (307-352-0211).**
8. **Sweeny Ranch Wind Energy Facility/ EA.** Wasatch Wind Development proposes to construct a 150 turbine, 270 MW wind energy facility on 5,360 acres of BLM- administered land within the Rock Springs Field Office, in Sweetwater County, in southwestern Wyoming. Cost Recovery has been completed and signed. ID team has been established and a pre-permitting meeting has been scheduled. SWCA has been selected as the contractor to complete the NEPA, and a draft schedule of the NEPA process is being completed in coordination with SWCA. Survey protocols are being discussed and wildlife surveys are being conducted. Project has already made adjustments to move away from known raptor nests in the south end of the project. **NEPA Status:** an **EA** tiered off of a programmatic wind **EIS** is being prepared. Initial internal interdisciplinary resource review initiated October 26,

2010. **Contact: Casey Reeves (307-352-0211).**

Project website: www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/rsfdocs/sweeneyranch-wind.html

(NOTE: This site will be activated when the **NOI** is published).

9. **Sandhills Ranch Wind Energy Project/ EA.** Shell Wind Energy proposes to construct a wind energy facility consisting of 25- 2 MW wind turbines, totaling 50 MW on 115 acres of land, 21 of which are BLM- administered lands. Facilities would include 1 substation, 16 miles of new roads, and overhead transmission lines. The project area is located within the Rawlins Field Office, in southeastern Wyoming. The proponent has agreed to participate in formal conferencing for Mountain Plover; however the formal conferencing does not need to be completed prior to a decision. **NEPA Status:** Currently, all information necessary to move forward has been obtained. A draft **EA** is expected by the end of December, 2010. **Project Contact: Pam Murdock, Project Lead, Rawlins Field Office (307-328-4200).**

Uranium Projects

1. **Gas Hills In Situ Leach (ISL) Uranium Project/ EIS.** Cameco Resources filed a Plan of Operation for an *in situ* leach uranium project in the Gas Hills area on the eastern portion of the Lander Field Office and a small portion within the Casper Field Office. The mine area will exceed 640 acres, triggering an **EIS**. **NEPA Status: NOI** published on September 7, 2010 in the *Federal Register*. Public scoping meetings were held in Casper, Riverton, and Lander on October 26, 27, and 28th. The DEIS will be available for internal BLM review in May – June of 2011, and available to the public in September 2011. The BLM will be working with cooperating agencies in February 2011, with completion of alternatives in April, 2011. **Contact: Kristin Yannone, IDT Leader, Lander Field Office (307-332-8488).** **Project website:** www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/lfdocs/gashills.html
2. **Lost Creek ISR EIS.** In November 2009, the Rawlins Field Office received a 43 CFR 3809 Plan of Operations for a proposed uranium mining operation titled the Lost Creek *In Situ* Recovery (ISR) Project. The Lost Creek ISR proposal includes an ore recovery plant site, road access to the site, a pipeline gathering system for extraction of the uranium minerals and transport to the plant site, and associated facilities such as parking lots, power lines, etc. Development and recovery of the uranium resource consists of dissolving underground uranium-bearing minerals into solution and then bringing them to the surface facility for concentration. The proposed project area consists of approximately 4,250 acres. Under the proposed plan no more than 324 acres would be subjected to actual surface disturbance. Mining operations are expected to last for a period of about eight years while start-up and closure operations are expected to add approximately three years time to the total project. The Lost Creek ISR project is located about 40 miles northwest of Rawlins, Wyoming in Sweetwater County. **NEPA Status: NOI** for Lost Creek is currently being reviewed in the WO Solicitor's Office. Currently, there is no target publication date. **Contact: Eldon Allison, IDT Leader, Rawlins FO (307-328-4267).** **Project website:** www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/rfdocs/lostcreek.html

Transmission Projects

1. **Gateway South Transmission Line Project/ EIS.** PacifiCorp, conducting business as Rocky Mountain Power, has submitted an application to the BLM requesting a ROW across public lands to site a single circuit kV line from the Aeolus Substation (near Medicine Bow, Wyoming) to the Clover (Mona Annex) Substation, near Nephi, Utah, a total distance of approximately 450 miles. This line would carry renewable wind energy from Wyoming to Rocky Mountain Power customers in Utah, to serve load and growth needs for transmission. The requested ROW would be 300 feet wide which is not an uncommon width used for this type of transmission line. The route would cross the Rawlins and possibly Rock Springs Field Offices, as well as other BLM Offices in Colorado and Utah, and two Forest Service Offices in Utah. The USDA Forest Service is a key Cooperating Agency in assisting BLM (lead) to prepare the **EIS**. **NEPA Status:** **NOI** to prepare an **EIS** anticipated in January of 2011. Public scoping anticipated beginning in February of 2011. **Contact: Tamara Gertsch, National Project Manager, Wyoming State Office (307-775-6115).**
Project website: www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/HighDesert/gateway_south.html
(NOTE: This site will be activated when the **NOI** is published).
2. **Gateway West Transmission Line Project/EIS.** Idaho Power and Rocky Mountain Power submitted a right of way application in May 2007 and revised it in December 2008. The project involves constructing a major transmission to carry 3000MW from Glenrock, Wyoming to a substation 20 miles south of Boise, Idaho. Total proposed length of the line is 1,150 miles of which about 470 miles is on federal lands including 4 BLM FO's in Wyoming, 7 FO's in Idaho, 2 USFS Ranger Districts, and 8 miles on Bureau of Reclamation lands. Major issues include multiple alternate line segments to avoid communities, visual resources, impacts to National Historic Trails. **NEPA Status:** Administrative Draft EIS v.2 review was completed April 30, 2010. Draft EIS for public comment is currently anticipated for the first quarter of 2011. **Contact: Walt George, National Project Manager, Wyoming State Office, BLM (307) 775-6116.**
Project Website: www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway_west
3. **TransWest Express Transmission Line Project/EIS.** TransWest Express, LLC., has applied to BLM for a ROW across public lands to site an extra high voltage direct current line (600 kV DC) from south central Wyoming to the Eldorado Valley south of Las Vegas, with the potential to connect at the Intermountain Power Plant, near Delta, Utah. The total distance is 725 miles that would cross southern Wyoming, northwestern Colorado, central Utah and southern Nevada. The line is designed to carry renewable energy generated in Wyoming to the desert southwest. The requested ROW would be 250 feet wide. Proposed routes cross 17 BLM Field Offices, 15 counties within the four states, and 5 National Forests in Utah. The ROW in Wyoming would cross the Rawlins and Rock Springs Field Offices. Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) is joint lead for the **EIS**. The Forest Service and Bureau of Reclamation are cooperators assisting in the **EIS** preparation. Approximately 450 miles of public lands and 275 miles of private and state lands are to be crossed. **NEPA Status:** **NOI** to prepare an **EIS** anticipated in January, 2011. Public scoping is planned to begin the end of January and end in March, 2011. **Contact: Sharon Knowlton, Project Manager, Wyoming State Office (307-775-6124).**
Project website: www.blm.gov/wy/en/info/NEPA/HighDesert/transwest.html
(NOTE: This site will be activated when the **NOI** is published).

Cooperating Agency Projects

1. **Nichols Ranch/ Hank Unit Uranium ISR Project** (not started). The proposal is to construct, operate, conduct aquifer restoration, and decommission an ISR uranium facility. The size of the project area is 3,371 acres, located 46 miles southwest of Gillette, Wyoming in Campbell and Johnson counties. The lead agency is the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). **NEPA Status:** NRC is developing a **Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS)**, to be finalized this December. BLM has determined that the NRC SEIS will not suffice for some issues, cultural and wildlife in particular. BLM has not determined how it will proceed with NEPA; waiting on conclusion of NRC consultation with State Historic Preservation Officer (SHiPO). **Contact: Kerry Aggen, IDT Leader, Buffalo Field Office (307-684-1196).**

2. **Wyoming Range Oil and Gas Leasing Decisions:** The Bridger Teton National Forest is reviewing their oil and gas leasing decisions from their 1990 Forest Plan in conjunction with new information regarding Canadian Lynx status and habitat, air quality, and other development. These decisions will affect 35 lease parcels involving 44,720 acres that are in various states of issuance. Twelve parcels were sold, issued, and then placed in suspense due to an IBLA decision. The other 23 parcels have not been issued pending completion of this NEPA document. **NEPA Status:** The Final EIS will be issued along with the **ROD** in mid December. **Contact: Melissa Blackwell, IDT Leader, Region 4 USFS, Ogden, Utah (801) 625-5777.**
Project website: www.fs.fed.us/r4/btnf/projects/nepa_project.shtml?project=24734

December 2010 Wyoming BLM Hotsheet Map

